

TEXT OF TELEGRAM 83STOCKH006168

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 06168 271317Z
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USINFO FOR P/RC, VOA NEWS/CA, SECSTATE FOR EUR

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - AFGHANISTAN ANNIVERSARY

1. MOST SWEDISH NEWSPAPERS HAVE INCLUDED COVERAGE IN
CONNECTION WITH THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOVIET
INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN.

2. ON DECEMBER 27, SWEDEN'S LARGEST MORNING DAILY
"DAGENS NYHETER" (INDEPENDENT) DEVOTED FRONT PAGE ITEM
AND FOUR COLUMN PICTURE OF AN ELDERLY REFUGEE, CULTURAL
PAGE ARTICLE BY THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE SWEDISH
AFGHANISTAN COMMITTEE, JAN STOLPE, AND ONE ENTIRE FOREIGN
NEWS PAGE TO AFGHANISTAN. MOST OF THE COVERAGE
CONCENTRATED ON THE REFUGEE ISSUE. FRONT PAGE ITEM WAS
HEADED "NO WAY BACK", AND MR. STOLPE'S ARTICLE CLAIMED
THAT THERE ARE AT LEAST SIX MILLION AFGHANS LIVING
OUTSIDE THEIR COUNTRY, AS WELL AS TWO MILLION REFUGEES IN
AFGHANISTAN, AS A RESULT OF SOVIET TERROR WARFARE.
STOLPE'S ARTICLE DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF A "POLISH"
SOLUTION, I.E., EXPANSION OF SOVIET TERRITORY TO INCLUDE
PARTS OF AFGHANISTAN AND INCORPORATION INTO AFGHANISTAN
OF PASHTU PORTIONS OF PAKISTAN, THUS CREATING A SEPARATE
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PAGE 02 STOCKH 06168 271317Z

STATE OF PASHTUNISTAN. STOLPE ALSO NOTES THAT NORWAY AND
SWEDEN ARE THE ONLY NATIONS IN THE WORLD WHICH HAVE
PROVIDED FINANCIAL AID FOR HUMANITARIAN AID INSIDE
AFGHANISTAN, DESPITE THE OBVIOUS, ENORMOUS NEEDS AMONG
THE POPULATION.

3. DECEMBER 27 EDITION OF SECOND LARGEST STOCKHOLM
MORNING DAILY "SVENSKA DAGBLADET" (CONSERVATIVE) RAN SIX
COLUMN ARTICLE BY FREELANCER STEFAN LINDGREN, WHO

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591

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592

RECENTLY MADE A ONE-MONTH TRIP INSIDE AFGHANISTAN. ITEM IS THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF SIX ARTICLES AND IS HEADLINED "THE GUERILLAS REIGN OUTSIDE THE CITIES". ARTICLE SAID THAT REPORTS THAT APPROXIMATELY 90 PERCENT OF THE COUNTRY IS IN THE HANDS OF THE MUJAHADDIN SEEM CORRECT.

4. ON DECEMBER 23, MALMO PROVINCIAL DAILY "SYDSVENSKA DAGBLADET" (LIBERAL), CARRIED EDITORIAL, SAYING:

"...THE POPULAR RESISTANCE AGAINST THE FOREIGN INVADERS HAS INCREASED OVER THE LAST SIX MONTHS. THE WAR CONTINUES WITH UNDIMINISHED INTENSITY AND IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT THE LEADERS IN MOSCOW INTEND TO WITHDRAW ANY TROOPS. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE AFGHAN CAMPAIGN IS A SEVERE SET-BACK TO SOVIET PRESTIGE. THIS DOES NOT SEEM TO BE OF ANY PARTICULAR CONCERN TO MOSCOW. NEITHER DO THE RUSSIANS SEEM TO CARE ABOUT U.N. RESOLUTIONS DEMANDING SOVIET RETREAT FROM THE OCCUPIED COUNTRY. CONDEMNATIONS BY WORLD PUBLIC OPINION HAVE BEEN IGNORED BY THE GENTLEMEN IN THE KREMLIN FROM THE START. IT IS INDEED A GLOOMY AND TRAGIC ANNIVERSARY WE'RE FACING..." PANACCIONE

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